



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, Oregon 97504
email address: or110mbOor.blm.gov

IN REPLY REF W To:

Birdseye Jones

MAY 2 2000

G5729(TD:bhk)

Dear Neighbor and Interested Citizen:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has begun planning a forest management project on public land in the Grants Pass watershed. We are sending you this letter because you live or own property near the project area, have a special interest in this area, or have requested to be informed about projects of this type. The enclosed map shows our initial planning area for the Birdseye Jones project.

We do not yet have a site specific project plan or proposal. We are in one of the early project planning steps referred to by planners as "scoping." Scoping's principal purpose is the early identification of site specific resource concerns, the identification of unique or sensitive features in the project planning area, and the identification of issues and concerns specific to the project area that should be considered during project planning.

Examples of the kind of information we would like to learn about at this point include:

- Are there any sites that you know are important or popular recreation sites?
- Do you know of any old mines or other hazardous conditions that we should attend to as a part of this project?
- Do you know of any sites of rare or unique plants, or areas you know to be used by rare or endangered animals?
- Are there any springs on the project area that you rely on for your domestic water?
- Are there roads that need erosion control work?
- Are there areas that you know are a particularly important source for special forest products such as poles, mushrooms or medicinal herbs?
- Are there areas where the fire hazard is especially high?
- Do you know of opportunities to compliment fire hazard reduction work planned for lands adjacent to BLM administered land?

While we do not yet have a specific project proposal, our recent projects of this type have included a mix of riparian restoration work, forest stand thinning and timber harvesting, prescribed burning and understory thinning to reduce fire hazard, young forest stand thinning and brushing, and various types of road work. The Birdseye Jones project will most likely include similar proposals. In all of our land management work we pay particular attention to stream and riparian protection.

It is important to keep in mind that this project is part of the implementation of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan and our 1995 Resource Management Plan (RMP). These plans provide the context and

many of the objectives and constraints that we must work with in planning this project. We have placed a copy of the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan and our 1995 Medford District Resource Management Plan (RMP) in the Josephine County Library. Both of these plans can also be accessed ~~through~~ the planning documents section of our District website (www.or.blm.gov/Medford).

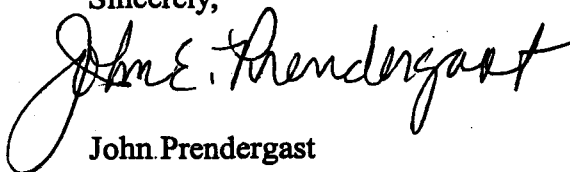
Early comments are especially helpful to us. This is not, however, the only opportunity you will have to comment on this project. Later, when we have a specific project proposal and an environmental assessment has been prepared, there will be an opportunity for public review and comment. If at any time over the next few months you would like more information or would like to talk with us about the project, please feel free to contact either myself at (541) 618-2303 or Tom Dierkes at (541) 618-2389. Tom is the project planning team leader. Please send your Written comments to me at the above address or you can e-mail them to me at or110mb@or.blm.gov.

Sometimes individuals prefer to comment confidentially. If this is a concern to you, you may request that we withhold your name and/or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Please state this clearly at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All comments received from organizations or officials of organizations, businesses or government agencies will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Our planning and inventory work will be much more efficient if we are able to cross adjacent private land. We would appreciate your assistance with this. We will, of course, contact the landowner for permission prior to crossing private property.

Thank you for your interest in the management of these public lands.

Sincerely,



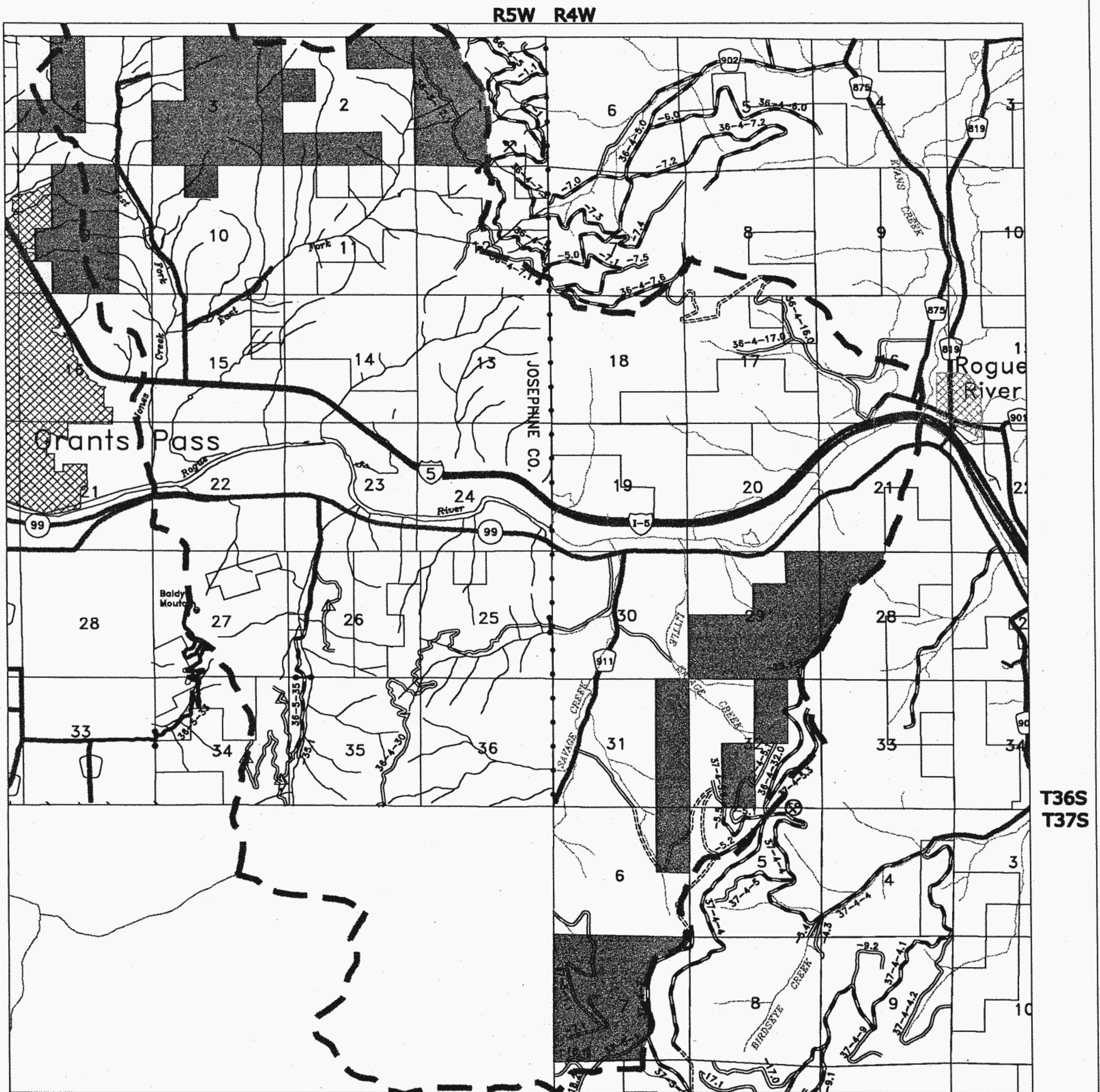
John Prendergast

Field Manager



Grants Pass Resource Area

Enclosure (as stated)

BIRDSEYE JONES LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROJECT



Legend

-  Project Area
-  Watershed boundary



1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000
SCALE IN FEET

21 April, 2000